

Department of Land and Natural Resources

Sustainability Hotspot

1

KOKEE

State Parks, scenic vistas
and recreational facilities

~Island of Kauai~



Top to bottom: Waimea Canyon, Alakai Swamp and Halepaakai Stream, Kokia Flower, Kawaikoi Stream, vandalism at Kokee.

The Kokee Hotspot on Kauai includes the Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks, the Kuia Natural Area Reserve, the Puu Ka Pele, and Na Pali-Kona Forest Reserves, the Alakai Wilderness Preserve, and the Kekaha and Mokihana Game Management Areas. Within the area are two of our most heavily visited State parks, scenic vistas, recreational facilities and also some of the most pristine native plant communities found in all of Hawaii. A majority of the island's rare and endangered species inhabit the area.

Water resources are of great value, being used, not only in the immediate area but for agriculture and hydroelectric production elsewhere. Numerous historic and cultural resources are also present.

Kokee leaves a lasting impression on all who visit the island of Kauai. However, native resources are declining and non-native resources are increasing. Illegal activities are also on the increase.

DLNR's Sustainability Hotspot Team for Kokee:

Ed Petteys - Forestry & Wildlife, Kauai, 274-3433;
Mac Andrade - Conservation & Resources Enforcement;
Don Heacock - Aquatic Resources;
Sam Lee - Land Division;
Carol Ogata - Historic Preservation;
Wayne Souza - State Parks;

is responsible for the future management of this resource.

DLNR's Vision for the Future and How to Attain it

DLNR's future vision for Kokee includes the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of its magnificent resources. To accomplish this, DLNR must, over the next two years:

- address staffing, funding, equipment and vehicle shortages;
- upgrade and maintain roads, trails, parking facilities, water systems, comfort stations and other infrastructure;
- establish a comprehensive planning process;

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Top to bottom: Kokee offers recreational opportunities for the disabled, Waimea Canyon Lookout, *Ohe Naupaka*, Kanaloahuluhulu Meadow, evidence of littering and dumping at Kokee.

- conduct a department organizational and effectiveness review;
- establish monitoring processes to track the status of the resources.

Many of the lessons learned from managing Kokee can be used to help DLNR better manage other hot spots like Puuwaawaa Dryland Forest on the Big Island and Kawainui Marsh on Oahu. 🌿



DLNR's Hotspot Team for Kokee: (top row, l-r) Petteys, Andrade, Heacock, (bottom row) Lee, Ogata, Souza.